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Agricultural Situation

Barroso unveils new European Commissioners

2004

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Report Highlights:

The new President of the European Commission, Manuel Barroso has announced how he will allocate portfolios in the new Commission. Agriculture will be run by the Dane Mariann Fischer Boel, replacing Franz Fischler. The new Commissioner for Fisheries will be Joe Borg. Health and Consumer Protection, previously covered by David Byrne, will be covered by the Cypriot Markos Kyprianou. The new Trade Commissioner, replacing Lamy, will be the UK's Peter Mandelson.

The Commissioners will take office in November, assuming their nominations are approved by the European Parliament and serve for a term of five years.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Brussels USEU [BE2]
[E3]

The new Commission President Manuel Barroso today unveiled how he will allocate portfolios amongst his team of 25 Commissioners.

The Agriculture and Fisheries portfolio currently held by Franz Fischler will be split. Mariann Fischer Boel, currently Danish Minister of Agriculture will cover agriculture and rural development. Joe Borg, from Malta, will handle fisheries and maritime affairs. Joe Borg had previously been the Maltese foreign minister. The portfolios have been split due to the increase in Commissioners to 25 following EU enlargement to ensure that each member State has a Commissioner.

The portfolio covered by David Byrne, Health and Consumer Protection has been given to Markos Kyprianou from Cyprus, where he was previously the finance minister.

The new Trade Commissioner, who replaces Pascal Lamy, will be Peter Mandelson from the UK. Mandelson had previously been a minister twice in the UK, including as minister for trade and industry before resigning each time under allegations of misconduct.

Now that Barroso has indicated how he will allocate the Commission portfolios, the new Commissioners will present themselves to the European Parliament, probably in September. The European Parliament must formally approve the team of Commissioners as a whole – it cannot reject individual Commissioners. The Commission President must also be approved by a European Parliament vote. He was approved in late July by a vote of 413 votes for, with 251 votes against.

The mandate of the new Commission will start on November 1, 2005 and last for five years. The Treaty of Nice sets out that on the November 1, 2004, there will be 25 Commissioners, one from each country. In addition, it should be noted that Member State voting weights will change for Council votes. See [GAIN Report E24022](#) for further details.

Page three of this report tables the full list of new Commissioners.

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The New Commission's Portfolios

Portfolio	New Commissioner	Country
President	Jose Manuel Barroso	Portugal
Vice President Enterprise and Industry	Guenter Verheugen	Germany
Vice President Institutional relations and Communication Strategy	Margot Wallström	Sweden
Vice President Administrative Affairs, Audit and Anti-Fraud	Siim Kallas	Estonia
Vice President Transport	Jacques Barrot	France
Vice President Justice, Freedom and Security	Rocco Buttiglione	Italy
Information Society and Media	Viviane Reding	Luxembourg
Environment	Stavros Dimas	Greece
Economic and Monetary Affairs	Joaquin Almunia	Spain
Regional Policy	Danuta Hübner	Poland
Fisheries and Maritime Affairs	Joe Borg	Malta
Financial Programming	Dalia Grybauskaite	Lithuania
Science and Research	Janez Potocnik	Slovenia
Education, Training, Culture and 'Multilinguism' (sic.)	Jan Figel	Slovak Republic
Health and Consumer Protection	Markos Kyprianou	Cyprus
Agriculture	Mariann Fischer Boel	Denmark
Enlargement	Olli Rehn	Finland
Development and Humanitarian Aid	Louis Michel	Belgium
Energy	Laszlo Kovacs	Hungary
Competition	Neelie Kroes-Smit	Netherlands
External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy	Benita Ferrero- Waldner	Austria
Internal Market and Services	Charlie McCreevy	Ireland
Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities	Vladimir Spidla	Czech Republic
Taxation and Customs Union	Ingrida Udre	Latvia

Source: European Commission,
<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1030&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>